



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2007

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**NIPSCO TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS
AS TEMPERATURES PLUNGE**

MERRILLVILLE, IN – With weather forecasts predicting dangerously low temperatures in the upcoming days, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today announced that it has temporarily deferred service disconnections through the middle of next week.

“We want our customers to stay warm and be safe in their homes,” said NIPSCO President Mark Maassel. “This is an excellent opportunity for those customers facing a disconnection to contact us so we have an opportunity to get them the assistance they need to stay connected.”

Service disconnections are planned to resume the middle of next week and will include those customers who were scheduled for a disconnection during the suspension. Customers enrolled in the state’s Energy Assistance Program, and who are delinquent on their utility bill, also are protected from disconnections between Dec. and March 15.

“We appreciate NIPSCO’s decision to temporarily suspend service disconnections,” said Bruce Greenberg, president and chief executive officer of the Family & Children’s Center, which operates the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County. “This action, along with heating assistance programs like Winter Warmth, shows that NIPSCO does care about their customers and they are doing what they can to help keep families safe and warm.”

The Family & Children’s Center is dedicated to strengthening the emotional and behavioral health of the communities it serves, with special emphasis on the needs of children and families. The center also serves as a Winter Warmth agency.

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In conjunction with today's announcement, NIPSCO reminds customers to use alternate heating appliances safely and encourages them to consider the following home heating safety tips:

- Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors should have fresh sets of batteries and be tested to make sure they are working properly.
- Space heaters should be used sparingly and safely, and according to the manufacturers' operating recommendations.
- Fire extinguishers should be recharged per the manufacturers' recommendations and kept in areas such as kitchens and basements.
- Stoves, ovens and outdoor grills should never be used as a source of heat.
- Leave the home immediately if natural gas odors are present, and contact 911 and NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726) from a neighbor's home.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipsco.com.

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